

Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)
Minutes of November 18, 2020 Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Ivy Whitlatch, Planning District I (Chair)
Esther White, Planning District II (Vice Chair)
Ann Davin, Member at Large (Secretary)
Jacob Hoogland, Member at Large
Janice Magnuson, Planning District III (by phone)
Richard Owens, Friends of Alexandria Archaeology
Edward (Ted) Pulliam, Alexandria Association
Ralph Rosenbaum, Member at Large
Seth Tinkham, Historic Alexandria Foundation
Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Member at Large

Members Absent:

Dylan Colligan, Business Community - excused
Mark Ludlow, Member at Large - excused

City Staff:

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist
Emma Richardson, Museum Education Specialist, Alexandria Archaeology
Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Brett Johnson, Regional Program Director, Torpedo Factory Art Center

Call to Order:

Ivy Whitlatch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Reading of Virtual Meeting Notice City of Alexandria by Eleanor Breen and recorded by Emma Richardson.

Action Plan for Vibrancy & Sustainability at Torpedo Factory Art Center (Draft)

Ivy introduced guests Diane Ruggiero, Brett Johnson, and Martha Harris to AAC members. Diane and Brett were invited to present the draft Action Plan for Vibrancy & Sustainability at Torpedo Factory Art Center to commission members. Martha, a HARC member, joined as a guest to listen and provide input.

Diane began by updating the AAC regarding the status of past and upcoming temporary Waterfront Park Art installations.

Diane and Brett presented the draft Action Plan for Vibrancy & Sustainability at Torpedo Factory Art Center. This draft plan is being presented to commissions across the City of Alexandria to solicit feedback and respond to questions. The goals of the action plan include re-establishing and rebuilding the art center's identity and improving its fiscal sustainability for the next five to ten years. There are no planned substantive physical changes to the building.

AAC members commented that the draft plan did not reference the historic nature of the building or the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. Martha also voiced support for acknowledging the age and history of the building in future plans. Diane stated that the input and comments from all groups will be used to revise the draft plan.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

AAC members reviewed the Wednesday, October 21 meeting minutes. Ralph Rosenbaum moved to accept the minutes as amended, Ted Pulliam seconded, and all AAC members agreed.

Chair Report:

- Ivy announced that Eleanor Breen was recognized as the Professional Archaeologist of the Year by the Archeological Society of Virginia.
- House on Washington and Madison streets next to the Towne Motel, will be moved 17 feet on Monday, November 23.
- Gretchen Bulova, Director of Office of Historic Alexandria, announced that museum openings will be rotated.
- Del Pepper has announced that she will not seek another term to City Council. AAC members discussed how to acknowledge her contribution to AAC and the Archaeology Museum. Ted and Ivy to write the letter expressing our appreciation. Seth suggested giving Del a mended plate.

Membership Update:

A letter drafted by Eleanor, Ivy, and Ted to recruit new members to AAC was sent out to relevant organizations.

AAC Meeting Calendar:

AAC members decided to delay discussion of possible fieldtrips until later in 2021.

Planning Updates and Reports:

- Ships/Waterfront Archaeology Update: Eleanor reported that the Navy's History and Heritage Command Underwater Archaeology Branch will conduct an underwater survey of Alexandria's shoreline from the foot of King to Duke Street to assess the potential for submerged resources before flood mitigation efforts begin. It is an opportunity to test their new boat and equipment.
- Waterfront Commission: Mark Ludlow (absent-excused) submitted a written summary of the meeting which noted that he was appointed to the Flood Mitigation subcommittee.
- Public Outreach: Eleanor and Emma prepared a video on the City's Archaeological Protection Code for Alexandria Archaeology Museum's Facebook page. Ivy reported that it was well received by City Council.
- RiverRenew: Ivy has applied to be a representative from HARC to RiverRenew. Archaeological investigations are planned for the area of impact at the Jones Point and Outfall 1 tunnel. The contract has been awarded to build the tunnel.
- African American Civil Rights Network: Seth Tinkham reported that the application for Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery is being drafted. The request for permission to move forward with the nomination to the African American Civil Rights Network will go before City Council at the Tuesday, November 24 meeting. A letter to the City Manager also was drafted.
- FOAA Update: Dick Owen reported that FOAA will help fundraise for various research projects and excavations for the Archaeology Museum through the VA Archaeological Charitable Trust (VACT) Kickstarter-type program. Also, FOAA members will be holding a Virtual Trivia night on Tuesday, December 8.
- AAC will meet again on Wednesday, December 16.

Record Volunteer Hours**Adjournment**

Meeting ended at 9 p.m.